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CHESTER-LE-STREET
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspectors

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

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FOR THE YEAR 1941.

GAVIN MILLAR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health,

CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
CHESTER-LE-STREET,
CO. DURHAM.
July, 1942.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of
Chester-le-Street.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my seventh annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the Rural District for the year ending the 31st December, 1941.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the report is confined to essential and urgent matters only, and on grounds of national security, complete tables of local populations or quotations from the figures supplied by the Registrar General which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed, are omitted from the report.

There has been a decrease of 630 in the estimated population of the Rural District from 1940.

There has been a slight decrease in the birth-rate, and a slight increase in the death rate.

The infant mortality rate is slightly higher than last year, but the maternal mortality rate is the lowest yet recorded in the Rural District.

The death rates of measles and influenza are less than in the previous year, but there has been an increase in the death rates of whooping cough and diphtheria. The attack rates of the notifiable diseases are higher than last year, with the exception of measles.

The response to the offer by the Local Authority of free immunisation of children against diphtheria continues to be disappointing : the latest returns show that approximately 15.1% of children aged 1-5 years, and 40.3% of children aged 5-15 years have so far been protected. This result will have very little effect on the incidence of diphtheria within the district, and until 75% of the child population have been protected, there will be no reduction in the incidence of this disease. It cannot be too clearly stressed that the ideal time for protection of children is

not in the midst of an epidemic, but in quiet periods, because it must be understood that it takes three months for immunity to develop after the injection.

There has been an increase in the number of new cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and an increase in the number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. The increase in the new cases of the respiratory condition affects mainly males and females between 15 and 35 years of age, whereas the increase in the non-pulmonary form affects chiefly the 5-15 age group.

The water supplies of the area continue to receive careful supervision from your Officers. Samples of water are taken at frequent intervals for bacteriological examination, and close contact is maintained with officials of the various water undertakings supplying the area.

A survey has been made of supplementary water supplies which might be used in emergency, and it is pleasing to report that there appears to be an ample supply of water of sufficient purity to be used should the occasion arise.

Careful watch is kept of the milk supplies of the area and from results of the examination of samples made, it can be said that milk produced within the area is clean and wholesome.

There is still in the area a large number of houses which are unfit for human habitation ; a number of dwellings are seriously overcrowded, but owing to the war, very little can be done to remedy this distressing problem.

The cleanliness and sanitary condition of the public air raid shelters in the area continue to receive the attention of your Health Officials. The condition of the shelters since the appointment of shelter attendants has improved.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued help and support during the year. My thanks are also due to my colleagues for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GAVIN MILLAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :—

GAVIN MILLAR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

SANITARY SURVEYOR :—

GEORGE B. BROWN, Cert. R.S.I. (retired 31.1.41).

A. T. PALLISTER, M.I.M. & Cy.E., M.R. San. I. (appointed 1-4-41.)

SANITARY INSPECTORS :—

THOMAS FOSTER, A.R.S.I. and Certificate in meat inspection of the R.S.I.

CHARLES W. ROBSON, C.R.S.I. and Certificate in Meat Inspection of the R.S.I.

A 50% grant is payable in respect of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.

The area of the district is the same as last year.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of population for the Rural District for mid-year 1941 is 630 less than the population for 1940.

Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the district on 31st December, 1941, was £154,655 and a penny rate represented the sum of £590.

Extracts of Vital Statistics.

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	17·4
Still Birth	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	39·2
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12·9

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis ...	0	0.00
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	1.39
Total ...	1	1.39

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births ...	70
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Live births	70
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	63
Deaths from Cancer (at all ages) ...	41
Deaths from Measles (at all ages) ...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	5
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	3

Vital Statistics.

The following table gives the vital statistics of the district for 1941 and previous years :—

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1932 ...	19.2	11.5	85
1933 ...	18.2	10.9	77
1934 ...	16.9	12.4	73
1935 ...	16.4	11.7	63
1936 ...	17.0	11.9	61
1937 ...	15.8	11.8	71
1938 ...	17.2	10.4	55
1939 ...	15.1	12.0	82
1940 ...	17.5	12.7	64
1941 ...	17.4	12.9	70

Deaths.

Included in the total number of deaths are those of 134 residents of this district who died outside the area; but 14 residents of other districts who died in the rural area are excluded.

The death rates for the various townships were as follows :—

Death Rate per 1000 population.				Death Rate per 1000 population.			
Biddick South	...	...	—	Lumley Little	...	...	7.7
Birtley	...	...	15.0	Ouston	...	...	9.4
Bournmoor	...	...	10.5	Pelton...	...	...	15.0
Edmondsley	...	...	11.2	Plawsworth	...	...	12.8
Harraton	...	...	11.0	Urpeth	...	...	9.2
Lambton	...	...	20.0	Waldridge	...	...	13.8
Lamesley	...	...	14.7	Sacriston	...	...	11.0
Lumley Great	...	...	12.8				

The following were the chief causes of death during the year :—

Cause.				Percentage of Total Deaths.			
1.	{	Diseases of Heart	...	...	
		Cerebral Haemorrhage and other	...	...	
		Circulatory diseases	...	...	...	4	3.2
2.		Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	11	7
3.		Cancer	...	...	...	9	8
4.		Violence	...	...	...	6	5
5.		Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	...	...	6	1

The age at death is summarised below :—

				Percentage of Total Deaths.			
Under 1 year		9	6
1-5 years		3	3
5-15 years		3	3
15-25 years		3	5
25-45 years		9	4
45-65 years		25	2
65 years and upwards		45	6

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year. The chief causes of death enumerated are regarded as the principle killing diseases.

Deaths from Cancer and Tuberculosis will be referred to later in the report in that section dealing with these diseases.

There was one death registered from puerperal and other maternal causes, which is a decrease of two from the previous year.

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age registered during the year was 49 and is 3 more than in the previous year. This gives an infant mortality rate of 70, compared with 64 for the previous year 1940.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1941.

7

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	14.2	0.51	12.9	0.00	—	0.03	0.00	0.06	0.07	0.19	5.1	59
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	14.7	0.58	14.9	0.00	—	0.03	0.00	0.07	0.08	0.17	7.5	71
148 Smaller Towns estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931 ...	16.4	0.60	13.0	0.00	—	0.03	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.20	4.6	56
London ...	8.9	0.33	16.3	0.01	—	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.15	6.8	68
Chester-le-Street R.D. ...	17.4	0.71	12.9	0.00	—	0.03	0.00	0.13	0.10	0.13	4.3	70

per 1,000 Live & Still Births

Puerperal Sepsis. 0.48

Others. 1.75

Total. 2.23

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :

SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

For a detailed list of the staff of the Public Health Department, see page 5.

2 (a). Laboratory Facilities.

Arrangements for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens remain the same as in the past.

During the year, the following bacteriological examinations were carried out with the results appended.

Disease.	Positive.	Negative.	Totals.
Diphtheria	31	142	173
Tuberculosis	28	95	123
Typhoid, Dysentery and Food Poisoning Organisms	—	28	28
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	—	1

The total number of samples examined is equal to a rate of 8.2 per 1,000 of the population.

No change has taken place from last year in the under-mentioned services:—

Ambulance Facilities.

Nursing in the Home.

Treatment Centres.

Hospitals (Public and Voluntary).

SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The district has a piped supply of water from the mains of public companies, with the exception of a few isolated houses which rely on springs and wells.

Samples of water are taken at monthly intervals from different points in the supply area of each public undertaking and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for examination and report. During the year 94 samples were taken and of that number 16 or 17 % were reported as not satisfactory and 11 or 12 % as suspicious. 21 of the unsatisfactory samples were from the mains of Companies, and the remainder from the supplies of isolated houses.

In every case a copy of the report was sent to the body concerned. Where there was an unsatisfactory report a letter was sent asking for immediate steps to be taken to render the supply pure and wholesome. They were also requested to notify the Council as to what steps had been taken, and check samples were taken for further examination.

Closet Accommodation.

The privy conversion scheme has been held up during the present emergency.

4 conversions were carried out under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, by owners of property, assisted by a contribution from the Local Authority of half the cost or £3 10s. 0d., whichever was the less amount.

Public Cleansing.

Scavenging of the district is carried out by direct labour, with the exception of the Parish of South Biddick and part of the Parish of Harraton, where the work, involving about 500 houses is done by contract.

On the whole the scavenging work in the Rural District is fairly well carried out.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Reference to the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors at the end of this report will show that this work has been carried out with care throughout the year.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken during the year for the abatement of smoke nuisances. Colliery spoil banks at Harraton, Sacriston and Ouston 'E' Pits have been kept under observation during the year. The heap at Harraton, has been extinguished and with cessation of tipping at Ouston 'E' Pit, there is no nuisance. At Sacriston the Colliery Company is taking all steps possible to the satisfaction of the Inspector of Alkalies of the Ministry of Health, to obviate the nuisance.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are two swimming baths in the district which are open to the public. One at Birtley, which is an open air pool and which was constructed by the Parish Council with help from the Commissioner for Special Areas ; the other at New Lambton, provided by the Miners' Welfare is a closed pool. Both are modern in design with efficient plants for filtering and treating the water chemically.

Samples of water from the pools are taken throughout the swimming season and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. Last year 15 samples were taken and 10 were reported as satisfactory

SECTION D—HOUSING.

Housing continues to be one of the chief problems of your Officers. Large numbers of houses which were condemned in 1938 are still occupied to the detriment of the health of those in occupation of them. Overcrowding is prevalent and is aggravated by the presence of evacuees in the district. It is to be hoped that steps will be taken now to secure immediate resumption of building activity on the cessation of hostilities.

The District Council is endeavouring to relet council houses to people from condemned property, but this can only relieve the unhappy lot of a few families.

At the end of the year the following Council houses were occupied.

Pelton	...	...	...	...	...	113
Perkinsville	...	...	...	...	...	213
Sacriston	...	...	...	...	...	218
Lumley	...	...	...	...	...	122
Eighton Banks	...	...	...	...	...	134
Edmondsley	...	...	...	...	...	206
Fatfield	...	...	...	...	...	312
Birtley	...	...	...	...	...	1211
Bournmoor	...	...	...	...	...	188
Nettlesworth	...	...	...	...	...	38
Team Colliery	...	...	...	...	...	22
Ouston	...	...	...	...	...	48
Urpeth	...	...	...	...	...	103
Kibblesworth	...	...	...	...	...	63
Total	...	...	...	...	...	2991

During the year 3 houses were built by private enterprise and 63 by the Local Authority, as follows:—

Parish.	Private Enterprise.	Local Authority.
Birtley	2	—
Bournmoor	—	11
Lamesley	1	—
Sacriston	—	52

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply

Samples of milk are taken at regular intervals by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for examination. 219 samples of milk were examined during the year, and 70% of the samples were within the prescribed standard of accredited milk. In every case a copy of the report on the sample is sent to the producer concerned, and if the report is not up to standard, a check sample is taken. Should the check sample not come up to requirements, the producer is invited to appear before the appropriate Committee of the Council to show cause why his registration should not be cancelled. This action generally has the necessary effect.

In this district milk production is clean, as evidenced by the high percentage of samples which were within clean limits. Much has been done to ensure clean milk production. Premises have been reconstructed, new dairies provided, and the veterinary staff have made visits to the farms at regular intervals to examine the cattle.

b) Meat and Other Foods.

The slaughter of animals is now carried out at the Government Regional Abattoir situated at the Co-operative premises in Chester-le-Street and your Sanitary Inspectors have taken duty spells for the inspection of meat with the Sanitary Inspector of the Urban District of Chester-le-Street.

SECTION F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Prevalence.

720 Notifications were received during the year compared with 1361 the previous year and 324 in 1939. Included in this figure are 185 cases of Measles and 190 cases of Whooping Cough, as opposed to 1,033 and 34 respectively the previous year.

The following table gives the number of cases notified during the past ten years :—

DISEASE.	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	201	370	572	306	215	179	226	43	50	64
Diphtheria	47	61	148	146	157	72	108	90	69	82
Enteric Fever	1	8	...	7	...	2	...	1	...	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	8	12	3	2	1	...	...	1	4	10
Poliomyelitis	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	97	67	90	84	130	106	69	...	78	118
Puerperal Fever	2	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	7	4	5	5	5	12	11	7	8
Erysipelas	18	36	45	31	32	32	50	20	24	26
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	4	2	1	4	5	2	6	4	2
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	67	51	53	49	48	49	40	44	38	45
Non-pulmonary	52	41	36	39	41	27	35	26	17	20
*Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1033	185
*Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	34	190

*From November 13th, 1939 only

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1941.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	AT AGES—YEARS.							TOWNSHIPS.												Total No. Notified.	Removed to Hospital.																	
	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 15	16 to 25	26 to 45	46 to 65	66 up.	At all ages.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.			December.	Biddick South	Birtley	Bournmoor	Edmondsley	Harraton	Lambton	Lamesley	Lumley, Great	Lumley, Little	Ouston	Pelton	Plawsworth	Urpeth	Walbridge	Sacrston	
Diphtheria	...	17	47	16	2	...	...	82	7	10	7	...	3	6	4	2	7	7	13	16	...	5	2	19	21	...	2	1	2	1	7	1	6	...	15	82	82
Encephalitis Lethargica
Enteric Fever	...	1	...	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
Erysipelas	3	11	10	2	26	4	4	4	1	3	...	1	3	...	...	3	...	...	4	2	1	2	...	2	5	1	1	2	...	...	...	6	26	4	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Pneumonia	...	8	20	12	9	8	19	5	81	16	8	5	3	7	4	2	5	2	7	5	...	14	7	7	10	...	4	3	4	2	5	5	2	2	16	81	13	
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	5	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	3	8	3	
Scarlet Fever	...	1	21	37	2	2	1	...	64	1	9	3	9	5	3	5	5	10	5	4	...	20	1	13	3	...	7	2	1	1	6	...	1	1	8	64	60	
Small-pox	
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	...	1	2	12	23	7	...	45	1	5	6	9	4	4	4	3	2	2	4	1	...	25	...	...	3	...	2	...	...	9	...	2	2	2	2	45	...
„ Non-pulmonary	...	2	8	8	1	...	1	20	1	1	3	6	6	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	1	2	...	4	...	...	1	4	...	1	...	4	20	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	1	2	2	5	...	...	10	...	...	2	...	...	1	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	10	10	
Dysentery	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...		
Food Poisoning	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	
Total	...	10	63	108	58	60	38	8345	30	37	33	31	25	24	30	16	21	23	32	42	...	78	13	41	41	...	25	13	9	7	38	6	13	5	56345	176		

The attack rates of the notifiable diseases per 1,000 of the population for the Rural District, compared with the rates for England and Wales are shown on the following table :—

Disease.	Chester-le-Street Rural District			England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever	1·62	1·47
Diphtheria	2·08	1·25
Typhoid	0·03	0·03
Paratyphoid	0·05	0·09
Erysipelas	0·66	0·30
Pneumonia	0·99	1·25
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0·30	0·25
Whooping Cough	0·82	4·39
Measles	4·69	10·33

Prevalence of notifiable diseases in the various townships is shown in the following table, which gives the attack rate per 1,000 of the population :—

Township.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.
Biddick South	—	—	—	—
Birtley	1·95	0·49	1·37	0·39
Bournmoor	0·61	1·23	4·32	1·23
Edmondsley	8·11	11·86	4·37	0·62
Harraton	1·03	7·24	3·45	0·70
Lambton	—	—	—	—
Lamesley	1·88	0·54	1·07	0·54
Lumley Great	1·42	0·71	2·13	3·55
Lumley Little	0·70	1·40	2·81	0·70
Ouston	1·18	1·18	2·35	1·18
Pelton	0·96	1·11	0·80	0·32
Plawsworth	—	0·75	3·75	—
Urpeth	0·42	2·50	0·83	—
Waldridge	1·38	—	2·76	—
Sacrison	1·66	3·12	3·33	1·25

Cancer.

50 deaths were registered during the year as being due to Cancer, which is equal to a death rate of 1·27 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate from this disease is greatly reduced from the previous year.

Of the 50 deaths, 20 occurred in males and 30 in females. No undue occupational prevalence was noted.

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New cases and mortality from Tuberculosis during 1941 :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5 ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
5-15 ...	—	1	6	5	—	1	—	—
15-25 ...	6	10	1	5	4	7	—	—
25-35 ...	6	8	—	—	6	4	—	—
35-45 ...	4	3	—	1	2	4	—	1
45-55 ...	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
65 & over	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	21	24	8	12	13	16	1	2

The following table gives the notifications and deaths occurring in the Rural District during the past five years.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications	Deaths.
1937 ...	49	19	27	10
1938 ...	40	21	35	4
1939 ...	39	30	26	3
1940 ...	38	23	17	7
1941 ...	45	29	20	3

The Local Authority supplies disinfectants to tuberculous persons for the disinfection of sputum and the washing of floors. etc.

Houses in which deaths take place from Tuberculosis are disinfected by the Local Authority, and any bedding which cannot be disinfected by steam is destroyed and the household compensated.

Chester-le-Street Rural District Council

(NORTHERN AREA).

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chester-le-Street R.D.C.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my thirteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary conditions of the Northern Area of your district.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health the report is considerably curtailed and statistics which are usually included have had to be omitted.

Area.

The area under my supervision remains the same as in my last report and includes the same parishes.

Housing.

Owing to the restrictions in material and labour the building of new houses has been suspended, and only work of urgent importance is now being carried out.

Closet Accommodation.

The closet accommodation in the area is substantially the same as in my last report.

No further conversion schemes have been carried out, and any change concerns only a small reduction in the number of closets, chiefly earth closets, which have been demolished when Slum Clearance houses have been taken down.

Scavenging.

There has been no change in the method of scavenging in the area. With the exception of the major portion of the Parish of Harraton which is done by contract, the remainder of the area is done by direct labour.

The work has been satisfactorily carried out by both systems.

Water Supplies.

A survey of all available sources of water supply has been made throughout the area, and it is satisfactory to state that should any emergency arise there is an ample supply of water, independent of the public services, to serve all domestic and manufacturing needs of the area.

Samples of water are taken from the Public services each month for bacteriological examination, which are submitted to the Public Health Department of King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

During the year 38 samples were taken of which 5 were unsatisfactory. The undertakings were immediately notified, and they at once undertook measures to counteract the complaint.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 34 registered dairies in the area, 26 of which are producer retailers and 8 of which produce for wholesale only.

There are 8 registered purveyors of milk in the area.

Regular inspections are made of these premises and every effort is made to produce a good and wholesome supply of milk.

Samples are taken from each producer and retailer twice each year. These are submitted to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for bacteriological examination.

During the year 112 samples were taken and the results showed that 63 samples were within the Accredited standard and 49 were below. In each case where the samples were unsatisfactory further samples were taken until samples were obtained which reached the Accredited standard.

Meat and Food Inspection.

All animals are now slaughtered at the Co-operative Slaughterhouse, Chester-le-Street, and no private slaughterhouses are now in use.

The inspection of the meat is carried out by the two meat inspectors of the Chester-le-Street R.D.C. and the inspector of the Chester-le-Street U.D.C., each inspector taking a week in turn.

All carcasses are inspected carefully, and the system of inspection works very satisfactorily. During the year the following carcasses have been inspected :—

Bulls	...	...	...	...	14
Cows	...	...	...	...	121
Steers	...	...	...	...	232
Heifers	...	...	...	...	190
Calves	...	...	...	...	29
Pigs	...	...	...	...	408
Sheep	...	...	...	...	2667

The following meat was condemned as unfit for food of man, and was disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Food.

					lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	3697
Mutton	...	...	...	...	156
Pork	...	...	...	...	104
Beef Head	...	...	...	...	228
Pork	...	...	...	...	17
Lungs	...	...	...	...	560
Livers	...	...	...	...	387
Tripe	...	...	...	...	359
Offals and Fat	...	...	...	...	774
Hearts	...	...	...	...	8
Udders=...	...	...	...	...	144
Smoked Bacon	...	...	...	...	21
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	...	34
Tinned Fruit, etc.	...	...	...	...	661

Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.

Owing to restrictions in the supply and sale of petrol, many of the services have been discontinued.

During the year 13 licences were issued for the storage of petrol, and the quantity stored was 19,200 gallons.

Carbide Calcium.

9 licences were issued for the storage of carbide of calcium, representing a total of 757,905 lbs.

The premises are kept under observation and all conditions with regard to storage are carefully attended to,

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Summary of Notices Served.

Description.	Number of Informal Notices Served.	Number of Formal Notices Served.	Number of Notices complied with.	Remarks.
Foul Conditions ...	10	1	11	
Structural Defects ...	283	8	231	
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...
Dairies & milk shops ...	2	...	2	
Cowsheds ...	9	...	7	
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...
Slaughter houses ...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies ...	...	...	...
Deposits of Refuse ...	7	...	7	
Water Closets ...	41	...	36	
Defective Yard Paving ...	1	...	1	
Defective Traps ...	38	2	39	
„ Drains ...	...	...	...
„ Water Supp. ...	31	...	27	
Animals Improperly kept ...	2	...	2	
Defective Ashbins ...	19	...	19	
Totals ...	443	11	382	

Summary of Works carried out.

New Drains ...	...	...	...	...	43
Defective Drains repaired ...	...	...	...	...	52
Inspection Chambers constructed ...	...	...	...	...	11
Vent Shafts erected ...	...	...	...	...	3
New W.C's (includes new houses) ...	...	...	...	...	16
W.C's repaired ...	...	...	...	...	36
E.C's repaired ...	...	...	...	...	5
New Scullery Sinks ...	...	...	...	...	17
Scullery Sinks repaired ...	...	...	...	...	13
New Ashbins provided ...	...	...	...	...	30
Yards cemented ...	...	...	...	...	1
Chimneys rebuilt ...	...	...	...	...	47
Roofs repaired ...	...	...	...	...	154
Spouting repaired ...	...	...	...	...	72

Walls cemented	48
Walls plastered	52
New Ceilings	21
Ceilings repaired	22
New Windows	8
Windows repaired	59
New Stairs	1
Stairs repaired	1
Floors repaired	14
New Floors	4
Floors ventilated... ..	2
Pantries repaired	3
New Pantries	1
Water Supply improved	33
Coal houses repaired	1
Foul Conditions remedied	11
Accumulations of Refuse removed	6
Animal or Poultry Nuisances abated	2
New Septic Tanks	1
Cesspools cleansed	2

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Cowsheds cleansed	7
Dairies—new	—
Dairies—cleansed	2

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. FOSTER,

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, R.S.I.
 Cert. Sanitary Inspector, R.S.I.,
 Sanitary Inspector (Northern Area).

Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

(SOUTHERN AREA).

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the Year 1941.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my second annual report on the sanitary administration and conditions of work done in the Southern area of the district, and acknowledge with thanks the assistance received from the Council and colleagues.

My district, being the same as last year, includes the parishes of Sacriston, Plawsworth, Edmondsley, Waldrige, Pelton, Great Lumley, Little Lumley, Bournmoor and South Biddick.

Housing.

The problem of labour and materials with regard to the housing conditions is such, that it is nearly impossible to get work done other than that of an urgent and necessary character, and even then only with difficulty. The housing position in the Southern Area remains the same as last year, with the exception of one house, 9a, Front Street, Edmondsley, which was dealt with under Section 12 and is now closed.

Scavenging.

The parish of South Biddick, which is the only area in my district to be scavenged by contract, comprises 13 houses at 12/7 per house per year. No complaints have been received throughout the year and the work appears to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The number of conversions made to the water carriage system during the year is 4, and these have been done privately under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

All cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected and a good standard of cleanliness has been maintained. I have 29 milk producing farms on the register comprising of 40 cowsheds and 31 dairies. Of these 6 are producers of Accredited Milk and 29 ordinary

milk. In addition there are two dairymen retailers in the district, 4 retailers from adjoining areas, and 2 pasteurised retailers. Of 75 samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination, 16 failed to reach the accredited standard, and 32 check samples were taken, making a total of 107 samples. Although every care is taken in investigating the cause of unsatisfactory results, it is only fair to state in justice to our own producers that a proportion of the dirty milk is imported into our district from outside sources.

Water Samples.

Each month samples of water are taken from various points in the district for bacteriological examination, 53 were taken in the Southern Area.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The supervision of our food supply continues to play a very important role in our routine work. All meat supplies are inspected at the Government Regional Abattoir in Chester-le-Street; and the other articles of food are periodically inspected at the retail establishments.

The following carcasses of meat have been inspected during the year :—177 steers, 197 heifers, 138 cows, 18 bulls—(530 carcasses); 62 calves, 497 pigs, and 3599 sheep. Of this, the amount of meat condemned as unfit for food was :—

	st.	lbs.
8 carcasses of cow beef... ..	276	6
2 fore quarters and loins of cow beef ...	35	3
1 carcase of bullock beef	15	4
1 carcase of heifer beef	10	2
8 beasts head and tongues	14	2
25 beast livers	26	9
23 beast lungs and hearts	28	11
Bruised beef		6
1 bag of New Zealand boneless beef ...	5	9
Beast fats and other organs	94	4
1 carcase of pork	1	11
3 pigs plucks	1	10
6 pig livers	1	4
4 pig heads	2	13
Pig's fats and other organs	2	3
1 carcase of mutton	1	4
2 sheep's plucks		11
Sheep's fats and other organs		6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	519	6

Total weight condemned : 3 tons, 4 cwts., 7 stones, 6 lbs.

Other articles of food condemned and disposed of as unfit for human consumption are :—

	st.	lbs.	ozs.
1 cheese... ..	4	6	12
Beef and Pork sausage	1	7	-
4 tins of evaporated milk		3	8
2 tins of fish roll		6	-
5 tins of corned beef	2	2	-
1 box Canadian apples	2	12	-
19 dozen Eggs			
Total weight	11	9	4

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

A total of 15 applications for registration under Section 14 of the above Act were received and approved during the year.

Factories.

In the Southern area there are 19 factories and 8 bakehouses registered. The factories comprise blacksmiths, public washhouse, boot and shoe repairers, saddlers, tailor, printer, sausage and pie factories, and fried fish shops. All these premises have been regularly inspected several times during the year.

Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.

The issue of licences under this Act consists of 5 for the storage of petrol and 4 for carbide of calcium, all of which were approved.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Summary of Notices Served.

Description.	Number of Informal Notices Served.	Number of Formal Notices Served.	Number of Notices Complied with.	Remarks.
Foul Conditions ...	1	...	1	
Structural Defects ...	68	4	56	
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...
Cowsheds ...	6	...	6	
Slaughter Houses ...	...	...	...
Ash Pits and Privies ...	4	...	4	
Deposits & Refuse ...	2	...	1	
Water Closets ...	2	...	2	
Defective Yard Paving	2	...	1	
Defective Traps ...	1	...	1	
„ Drains ...	44	...	43	
„ Water Supply	12	...	12	
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...
Animals improperly kept	2	...	2	
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...
Pig Sties and Other Nuisances ...	5	...	3	
Defective Bins ...	4	...	4	
Cesspools cleansed ...	...	...	...
Totals ...	153	4	136	

Summary of Works carried out.

New drains laid	47
Inspection chambers constructed	31
Defective drains repaired	45
Gullies provided and fixed	1
Roofs repaired	41
Spouting repaired	19
Chimneys repaired	3
Walls repaired	2
Waste pipes repaired	1
Windows repaired	19
Earth closets repaired	4
Water closets repaired	16
Water pipes repaired	6
Ash bins provided	3
Pantries provided	3
Coal houses provided	2
Yards repaired	3
Floors repaired	1
Kitchen ranges repaired... ..	13
Doors repaired	7
Sinks provided	5
Water provided	3
Ceilings replastered	7
Walls replastered	23
Other sanitary fittings	2
Cowshed approach cemented and walls beam filled.	

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES WILFRID ROBSON,

Sanitary and Meat and Food Inspector.

